

Dear Constituent:

Election Day (November 2) is rapidly approaching! I am writing to you with a list of some your rights at the polls on Election Day. This information will help to ensure that your vote will count.

- ✓ **Bring identification to the polls.** In Maryland you will be asked to provide identification in order to vote for the following reasons:
  - If you are voting for the first time in Maryland.
  - If you registered to vote by mail on or after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003.
  - If you have not previously met the identification requirements of the federal Help America Vote Act.
- ✓ **Acceptable forms of identification:**
  - A copy of a current and valid photo identification (i.e. driver's license).
  - A copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document with your name and current address (the same address you provided on your provisional ballot application).
- ✓ **Ask for a provisional ballot.** If your name does not appear on the voter registration list or you have forgotten to bring ID to the polls, you may still vote by asking for a provisional ballot. You should ask the poll worker how you can check to make sure your vote is counted, since some states require that provisional ballots be cast in the correct precinct. The poll worker should provide you with a phone number or website that will tell you if your provisional ballot was counted, and if not why.
- ✓ **Look for the signs.** Signs are posted at each polling station to give public notice to each qualifying individual of his/her voting rights; how to use the voting machines; and giving directions on how to file a complaint if his/her rights have been violated.
- ✓ **If you have a question...Ask.** The job of a poll worker is to help with the process. If you have a question about how to use a machine, or need a provisional ballot; ask the poll worker for help. If you are in the wrong voting precinct, the poll worker can help you find the right one.
- ✓ **Call for help.** Hotlines have been set up by government agencies to assist those who feel that their rights are being violated or need help with the voting process. These hotlines will be staffed by individuals who will be able to assist you if you face hurdles at the polls. Most will be able to direct you to the appropriate official to resolve problems.
  - a. **Election Assistance Commission (1-866-747-1471).** The EAC will have staff and volunteers answering phone calls on Election Day and directing voters to officials who can determine of where their polling station is located and other Election Day questions.
  - b. **U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Voting Section (1-800-253-3931).** DOJ has designated a phone line for inquiries from states and other jurisdictions concerning the Help America Vote Act.

Voting is fundamental. Bring this guide to the polls on Election Day and use it as a reference for answering any questions you may have at the polls.

*Produced by the Office of Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger*